

United Press International carried the Berkson report to client newspapers and also asked the American Medical Association for comment. The query drew a repetition of the AMA's "neutral" position in the controversy, carried as an "add" to the wire story.

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United Press International -- 103 (Add Cigarettes, Rochester UPI -- 27)

The American Medical Association declined to comment on Berkson's statement. An AMA spokesman said the organization never has taken an official position on the relationship between cigarette smoking and lung cancer. The AMA Journal has published both pro and con articles on the subject.

Columnist and telecaster Walter Winchell referred to the Berkson statement in the first of a new series of network broadcasts, October 2.

RADIO TV REPORTS, INC.

The Walter Winchell Show

WABC-TV & ABC

Television Network

October 2, 1960 10:30 PM

New York

MAYO AUTHORITY DOUBTS SMOKING-LUNG CANCER LINK

THE TELEVISION SCREEN SHOWED WALTER
WINCHELL SEATED AT A DESK.

WINCHELL: Rochester, Minnesota: -- here is good news for smokers and the cigarette companies.

"The top authority on medical statistics at Mayo Clinic is Dr. Joseph Berkson. He is quoted as stating that he does not believe in the figures linking cigarettes and lung cancer.

"In fact," says Dr. Berkson of Mayo's, "It is very doubtful that smoking causes lung cancer."

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